(d) and (e) As per the reports received from States/UTs, 36477 bodies using ultrasound imaging scanners etc. have been registered under the Act. 431 ultrasound machines have been sealed and seized for violation of law. There were 603 ongoing cases in the court/police for various violations of the law.

States and UTs have taken the steps to implement the Act including award scheme launch for those giving information on sex selective elimination of girl child, establishment of State/District levels inspection and monitoring team, involvement of Panchayats in the campaign for the cause of girl child, task force under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries to monitor ultrasound clinics and awareness campaigns for public, service taker and service provider on the legal issues relating to the PC & PNDT Act, 1994.

The step taken by the government include *inter-alia* the Constitution of a National Inspection & monitoring Committee (NIMC) for detecting violation of the Act and conducting of raids, Monitoring through the Central Supervisory Board under the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, sensitizing stake holders including the judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist(ASHA), as well as facility for on-line filling of Form 'F' by clinics.

Regulation of prices of life-saving drugs

†518. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any guidelines to control prices of life-saving drugs;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to open Government-owned drug stores in every town of the country to make such medicines available to the common man at reasonable price;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Department of Pharmaceuticals has stated that Life saving drugs are not defined under Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,1995). Government/National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995 and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs. The prices of Scheduled formulations are fixed or revised in accordance with the paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. However, NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily, failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. Monitoring of prices is an on-going process.

(b) to (d) Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Pharma Cenral Public Sector Enterprises CPSEs has launched Generic Drugs Campaign with the objective of ensuring access to unbranded generic quality medicines at affordable prices to all through "Jan Aushadhi Stores" where inherently less priced unbranded generic drugs would be sold which are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive drugs.

The opening of Jan Aushadhi Campaign is being done by Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) formed by five Pharma CPSEs. At present the Jan Aushadhi Stores are opened with the cooperation of State Governments in District Hospitals. Jan Aushadhi Stores are managed by State Government or an organization nominated by State Governments.

Setting up AIIMS-like institution in West Bengal

519. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the proposed AIIMS-like institution in West Bengal;

(b) the details of speciality and super speciality healthcare facilities proposed to be provided in the above institution;

(c) whether it is a fact that the civil construction of the housing complex is proposed to be completed by the end of 2009-10; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up an AIIMS-like institution in West Bengal, in the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Cabinet has approved the proposal on 5.2.2009. The State Government of West Bengal has, agreed to provide 100 acre land. Implementation of the project will be taken up on selection of suitable land in consultation with the State Government.

The institution will have a 960 bedded hospital intended to provide healthcare facilities in 42 speciality/super-speciality disciplines.

(c) and (d) In the first phase of PMSSY, six AIIMS-like institutions are being taken up, one each at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Rishikesh (Uttarakhand). Construction of housing complex for these institutions has started and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.